

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3710

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017

Radiation Norms

Sahu Shri Tamradhwaj

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of Telecom Service Providers against whom action has been taken by the Government for non-compliance of radiation norms, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether any rules regarding restricting installation of mobile towers near residential areas, educational institutions and hospitals have been framed by the Government and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the States have their own rules for installing mobile towers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &  
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) Madam, to ensure the compliance of Electromagnetic Field (EMF) radiation norms, field units of Department of Telecom (DoT) [erstwhile Telecom Enforcement, Resource and Monitoring (TERM) Cells] carry out audit of up to 10% of the Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) annually on random basis to cross check the EMF compliance. During the audit carried out by TERM Cells, total 284 numbers of BTSs installed on various mobile towers by various TSPs have been found exceeding the prescribed EMF radiation limits as on 30.06.2017. The details of these non-compliant BTSs License Service Area-wise (LSA-wise) and Telecom Service Providers-wise (TSP-wise) is attached at Annexure-I & Annexure-II respectively. For all these non-compliant BTSs found during testing, TERM Cells have imposed applicable financial penalty 10 Lakhs per BTS on defaulting TSPs as per the prescribed DoT guidelines.

(b) Madam, with regard to impact of EMF emissions from mobile towers on health, World Health Organization (WHO) has referred to approximately 25,000 articles published around the world over past 30 years, and based on an in-depth review of scientific literature, has stated, "Despite the feeling of some people that more research needs to be done, scientific knowledge in this area is now more extensive than for most chemicals." WHO has concluded - "current evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields".

The main conclusion from the WHO reviews is that EMF exposures below the limits recommended in the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) international guidelines do not appear to have any known consequence on health. In India norms for exposure limit for the Radio Frequency Field (Base Station Emissions) are already 10 times more stringent than the safe limits prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO. Making the norms ten times stricter than what has been prescribed by ICNIRP and recommended by WHO, obviates the need for having separate norms for special localities. Accordingly, the advisory guidelines issued by DoT to state governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers do not place any restriction on installation of mobile towers near residential area, educational institutions and hospitals etc.

(c) & (d) Madam, BTSs are established by the TSPs at suitable locations, as per their Radio Frequency (RF) network planning for proper coverage of the area and as per their service requirement to fulfil the license conditions. Prior to installation of mobile towers, the TSPs have to obtain Siting clearance from Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SACFA) of DoT for every site from the point of view of interference with other wireless users, aviation hazards and obstruction to any other existing microwave links. However, siting clearances of DoT are issued without prejudice to other applicable by-laws, rules and regulations of local bodies such as municipal corporation, Gram Panchayat etc. TSPs have also to obtain necessary right of way related clearances from concerned local authorities before installation of tower. Various local bodies /State Governments have formulated their own policy regarding grant of such permissions for installation of mobile towers.

DoT has issued advisory guidelines to state governments on 01.08.2013 for issue of clearance for installation of mobile towers. These guidelines list the documents to be submitted by the Telecom Service Providers/Infrastructure Providers for obtaining clearances from State Governments/ Local Bodies for installation of mobile towers and also suggested actions to be taken by State Governments/ Local Bodies. While in general, State Governments/ Local Bodies are following the guidelines issued by DoT, however, some Local Bodies/ State Governments have also formulated their own policy for grant of permissions for installation of mobile towers. The record of such guidelines issued by the State Governments/ Local Bodies is not maintained by DoT.

Annexure-I

Licensed Service Area(LSA)-wise non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms

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<pre>
SN Name of LSA Total BTSs
(as on 30-06-2017) No. of non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms
(as on 30.06.2017)
1 Andhra Pradesh 1,19,294 0
2 Assam 30,907 2
3 Bihar 73,261 0
4 Delhi 78,328 0
5 Gujarat 93,479 0
6 Haryana 37,980 1
7 Himachal Pradesh 15,388 6
8 Jammu and Kashmir 22,903 0
9 Karnataka 1,12,107 88
10 Kerala 78,445 0
11 Kolkata 39,693 0
12 Madhya Pradesh 89,165 14
13 Maharashtra 1,27,371 14
14 Mumbai 49,476 127
15 North East 19,563 8
16 Odisha 39,199 0
17 Punjab 65,309 0
18 Rajasthan 77,847 1
19 Tamilnadu 1,30,846 0
20 Uttar Pradesh (East) 95,063 10
21 Uttar Pradesh (West) 74,648 0
22 West Bengal 54,947 13
Grand Total 15,25,219 284
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#### Annexure-II

Telecom Service Providers (TSP)-wise non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms

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<pre>
SN Name of TSP Total BTSs
(as on 30-06-2017) No. of non-compliant BTSs on account of violation of radiation norms
(as on 30.06.2017)
1 Aircel/Dishnet 66,320 20
2 Airtel/BHL 3,48,890 69
3 BSNL 1,33,066 10
4 IDEA/ABTL 2,43,456 22
5 Loop* 0 11
6 MTNL 3,147 3
7 Reliance 48,007 32
8 Reliance Jio 3,34,614 10
9 SSTL (MTS) 7,966 1
10 Tikona 417 0
11 TTSL/TTML/Tata 64,963 34
12 Videocon** 0 2
13 Vodafone 2,44,837 62
14 Telenor/Telewings/Uninor 29,536 8
Grand Total 15,25,219 284
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\* M/s Loop has closed its telecom services in November, 2014.

\*\* M/s Videocon has closed its Telecom Services in May, 2016.

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